

Application No. 10/826,739
Amendment dated July 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 18, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the Official Action mailed February 18, 2005, applicants have revised the claims of their application in an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the Examiner has withdrawn claims 6-8 from further consideration. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file one or more divisional cases to their non-elected claims.

Applicants submit herewith a revised sheet of drawings, wherein Figure 6 is labeled "Prior Art". In the Specification, Figure 6 has been described as "an embodiment of the present invention" in that the mop of Figure 6 can be employed in combination with the adapter of Figure 5 for practicing the present invention.

In accordance with the Examiner's Requirement, applicants submit herewith a revised Abstract in the form of a single paragraph. Applicants regret this inadvertent informality.

In response to the Examiner's objection, claim 3 has been revised.

In rejecting the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102, the Examiner has relied upon U.S. Patent No. 6,591,442, to Kaminstein, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0110584, to Clare. However, it is respectfully submitted that neither of these references teach or suggest applicants' novel mop head construction, wherein a *raised three-dimensional pattern* of spaced apart, upstanding elements coacts with

an associated planar cleaning sheet to provide enhanced cleaning action.

Accordingly, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed in the Specification, the present invention is directed to a floor cleaning implement which improves upon typical mops and the like known in the prior art, wherein the cleaning implement of the present invention comprises a mop head having a three-dimensional surface, and an associated planar cleaning sheet which can be selectively affixed to the mop head. Notably, when the planar cleaning sheet is affixed to the mop head in this fashion, the cleaning sheet contours to the three-dimensional surface of the mop head, thus providing the cleaning surface of the planar cleaning sheet with a non-planar configuration. By this arrangement, enhanced cleaning is desirably achieved, with the removable nature of the planar cleaning sheet facilitating replacement, as may be desired, without resort to conventional wringing, squeezing, or like manipulation of the mop head periodically during use.

It is respectfully maintained that the principal Kaminstein references does not teach or suggest applicants' invention as claimed. As will be noted, this reference is limited in its teachings to the provision of a mop head having grooves 15, and clearly does not teach or suggest the provision of a raised three-dimensional pattern of *longitudinally and transversely spaced-apart upstanding projections*, such as disclosed in Figures 1, 3, 4, and 5, of applicants' specification. Notably, this illustrated three-dimensional pattern of upstanding elements has desirably been

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found to enhance the cleaning action of the associated planar cleaning sheet as the mop is manipulated by a user.

It is believed that the Clare et al. reference is similarly deficient in its teachings. As noted, this patent specifically contemplates the formation of a mop head having portions which are *tapered*, and does not teach or suggest the provision of a mop head having a raised three-dimensional pattern of longitudinally and transversely spaced-apart upstanding elements, as disclosed and claimed. Again, it is respectfully submitted that applicants' novel mop head construct provides desirably enhanced cleaning action in combination with the selectively replaceable planar cleaning sheets of their invention.

In view of the foregoing, formal allowance of claims 1-5 is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner wish to speak with applicants' attorneys, they may be reached at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage at First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **July 18, 2005.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven O'Brien", is written over a horizontal line.